

antibody of the desired type. A monoclonal antibody, or fragments thereof capable of inhibiting the binding of the cytokines IL-3, GM-CSF and IL-5 to the β_c receptor, and a hybridoma cell line producing the antibody are also claimed.

In the Claims:

The following claims 32-35 are pending in the present application after cancellation of claims 1-31 and 36-39 from the present application.

Claims 1-31 were previously cancelled.

32. (Previously added) A monoclonal antibody or fragments thereof capable of inhibiting the binding of cytokines IL-3, GM-CSF and IL-5 to the common receptor β_c , wherein the monoclonal antibody or fragments thereof binds to both the B'-C' loop and the F'-G' of domain 4 of the β_c subunit.

33. (Previously added) A monoclonal antibody produced by the hybridoma cell line deposited as accession number ATCC HB-12525.

34. (Previously added) The hybridoma cell line ATCC HB-12525.

35. (Previously added) A method of identifying an inhibitor capable of competitively inhibiting the binding of BION-1 to the β_c subunit, the method including the steps of contacting BION-1 or fragment thereof with the β_c subunit as well as a candidate inhibitory compound,